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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2272
INFO RUCNFUR/DARFUR COLLECTIVE
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 KHARTOUM 001639

DEPT FOR AF A/S FRAZER, SE WILLIAMSON, AF/SPG
NSC FOR PITTMAN AND HUDSON
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU
DEPT PLS PASS USAID FOR AFR/SUDAN

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [ASEC](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KPKO](#) [SOCI](#) [AU](#) [UNSC](#) [SU](#)
SUBJECT: FUR SHURA COUNCIL CALLS FOR IDP SELF-DEFENSE

REF: A) KHARTOUM 1365
B) KHARTOUM 1632

¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY: On November 9, leaders of the Fur Shura Council (FSC) told CDA Fernandez that Darfur's IDPs need community police units consisting of IDPs themselves. These FSC representatives also criticized the Sudan People's Initiative, called for one region for all of Darfur, urged US eventual development assistance for returnees, and insisted on the right for IDPs to return to their original homelands. SUMMARY.

¶2. (SBU) The following members of the Fur Shura Council (FSC), representing the traditional leadership of Darfur's largest tribe (and greatest victim in the Darfur crisis) visited CDA Fernandez at the U.S. Embassy on November 9:

- Dr. Idris Yousif, Secretary General of the FSC
- Mr. Amin Mahmud, Deputy Secretary General
- Salah Al-Din Muhammad Rijal, Fur Magdoo in Nyala
- Abd Al Majid Ibrahim
- Abd Al Gadir Mansour

(Note: CDA Fernandez last met with the FSC on September 4, 2008, reftel A. The FSC includes a number of representatives from some tribes that have been historically very close to the Fur such as the Tunjur, Birgid and Dajo. Many of Sudan's larger tribes have these "consultative" or Shura Councils to provide a voice for the tribe in the capital and to press their views. The Fur Shura Council has generally been close to the views of exile SLM leader Abdul Wahid Nur, although it is not in lock-step with him. End Note.)

¶3. (SBU) Salah Al-Din Muhammad Rijal opened the meeting by expressing congratulations for President-elect Obama and passing a letter to be delivered to him. reftel B). Rijal added that the election of the U.S.'s first African American President is very significant. He also expressed appreciation for President Bush's efforts in Sudan, noting that American policy and practical steps to help the people of Darfur are appreciated in Darfur's IDP camps.

SUDAN PEOPLE'S INITIATIVE

¶4. (SBU) All of the FSC representatives agreed that the real people of Darfur were not adequately represented in the Sudan People's Initiative (SPI). Yousif said that even before the consultations and meetings had taken place, the National Congress Party had already "cooked" the outcome of the initiative. FSC representatives also bellowed with laughter over the comment: "and unfortunately the cooking has not been delicious." They noted that while SPI was mostly a "propaganda exercise," the United States had treated it in exactly the right way, "by focusing on deeds and not words." They expressed fear that the regime will continue to focus on process, with the SPI and with the upcoming Doha talks, and that some countries and even some rebel movements will be, at least

temporarily, distracted by the show.

ONE REGION, DEVELOPMENT, AND LAND RIGHTS

15. (SBU) Yousif emphasized that the FSC firmly believes that Darfur needs to become one single region. Even if a stooge of the NCP or an enemy of the Fur leads this united region, the people of Darfur "will be able to sort out their own problems by themselves," even with the Khartoum-supported Arab tribes of Darfur which make up the janjaweed. Yousif added that Darfur needs rapid re-development because destroyed villages must be rebuilt before the voluntary return of IDPs. Mansour added that the removal of Arab settlers from West Africa from land previously occupied by the Fur must precede any such IDP return. He also argued that the people of Darfur need to return to the "hakura" system (traditional tribal land grant). Yousif stated that both individual and collective compensation are also important to peace in Darfur.

COMMUNITY POLICING

16. (SBU) FSC representatives maintained that the creation of community police units would greatly aid security in Darfur. Although security has improved in some of the IDP camps (such as sprawling and volatile Kalma IDP camp in Nyala, South Darfur, where a Bangladeshi Polic Unit began a 24 hour presence in September 2008) UNAMID and the international community should help train IDPs as police officers and provide oversight to this program, as UNAMID will not be able to provide security in Darfur forever, stated Yousif. CDA Fernandez commented that some observers may see this as creating an IDP militia, to which Mansour responded, "perhaps, but this is the only way to ensure protection for Darfur's IDPs, as the Arabs are the only ones with weapons." CDA Fernandez suggested that

KHARTOUM 00001639 002 OF 002

the establishment of joint integrated police units and community police should be explored for Darfur despite the many technical, political, and logistical challenges facing this endeavor. Ibrahim went further, arguing that after a new peace agreement, Darfur's rebel movements should provide security to IDPs. FSC representatives ended the meeting by expressing the hope that the international community, especially the United States, will play an even more prominent role in Darfur in the coming weeks.

COMMENT

17. (SBU) The Fur Shura Council based in Khartoum is friendly, likeable, and overtly pro-American. (While exiting the Embassy, the FSC even requested a picture with the CDA at their next meeting, sang the praises of American democracy, and again thanked the U.S. for its involvement in Sudan.) Their concept of community policing is important and worth exploring, even though it may be premature at this point. UNAMID hopes to build community police centers in Darfur, although the timeline for completion for the centers is months (and possibly even years) away. It is not clear whether IDPs will be able to police themselves through these centers. Post will continue to follow up with UNAMID's FPU leadership. Certainly, giving those people in Darfur who have suffered the most a way to defend themselves is an obvious no-brainer, but would be a bitter pill for the ruling NCP to swallow as it could lead eventually to the end of Khartoum's rule in Darfur. It is inconceivable that these IDP police could be trained by Sudanese police, which in Darfur is heavily infiltrated by former Arab militias, as are most regular paramilitary forces in the troubled region.

FERNANDEZ